



The four pictures above illustrate a well-balanced system of farming for Tennessee conditions. These pictures were made on the farm of John Hitch, in Blount county, one of the most successful farmers in the state. His system is corn, wheat, barley, clover and grasses, pastures, livestock.

FARMERS IN TENNESSEE WHO PRACTICE DIVERSIFICATION OF CROPS PROFIT MOST

Survey of Many Communities Shows Cover Crops, Pastures, Fences, and Livestock Tie Men to Land, Resulting in Financial and Social Benefits For Both Land-owners and Tenants as Well as Improvement of Soil—Long Lease is Advantage to Both Landowner and Tenant

(By J. C. Meams, Specialist in Agronomy, Division of Extension)

To determine the effect certain economic factors have upon the welfare of rural communities, the Division of Extension, University of Tennessee, in co-operation with the National Child Welfare Committee, made a survey of fourteen communities scattered throughout Tennessee in 1920.

The factors considered were tenancy, diversification of crops, livestock and soil fertility. One of the most outstanding results determined by the survey is that the growing of any one crop exclusive of others lends itself readily to the increase in a shifting tenancy with the resulting train of economic and social evils. The first and most pronounced of these is a disregard for the soil and farm improvement on the part of both tenant and the land owner, and a close second is the unstable business conditions based upon a vicious credit system that exists where one-crop farming is followed.

Tenancy, in itself, is not all bad. There are always three partners to be considered in any tenant contract, the land, the tenant, and the owner. In any good system all three are benefited directly. The soil as well as the owner may be benefited. The tenant may improve his financial condition and may in time become an owner. Indirectly the community reflects the condition.

Almost half of the land in Tennessee is handled directly by families who do not own it and who move bi-annually. There is no incentive or opportunity for improvement of the soil, the farm or the community. The sections growing tobacco, cotton, corn, peanuts, etc., to an extreme, have suffered most. There are cultivated crops which are removed from the land in the fall, leaving the season when the tenant leaves. The land needs to be covered in winter by small grain and needs clover and grass at regular intervals. The existing system of short tenure prohibits the growing of these crops since the tenant cannot move them when he moves.

For profitable growth soil building crops require time which cannot be applied economically for one season's use; the benefit extending over a period of years. The moving tenant is only interested in immediate results. Many soils need phosphate in more liberal amounts, some need terracing, and some tilling, others need to be sown to permanent pasture or to be planted in black locust for post timber. All need manure. The benefits of these are cumulative over a period of years and seldom pay for themselves the first year.

Livestock Essential.

The farm needs enough livestock to utilize the roughage available on every farm and the pastures that are essential to maintain the soil and the stock. It requires more than a year or two

to establish a good pasture. Herein is the reason why most tenants seldom attempt it. To grow livestock profitably a constant feed supply in amount and kind, is necessary. The animals and the crop must fit each other. To make them fit requires a longer period than the average lease. Tenant farmers do and must of necessity, stay longer on general farms than upon one-crop farms. Cover crops, pastures, fences, livestock, etc., tie men to the land.

Viewed from the best interests of rural life, the land has the first right in a land-lease contract, next comes the tenant, then the owner. The soil is entitled to the increase in fertility, or at least its maintenance. Contracts should be written on this basis. When improvements are put into or on the soil, belong to whoever put them there. The tenant should not take them away but he should either stay on the land long enough to use them or he should be paid for them when he leaves. If time lasts 5 years and the tenant farms the land 2 years, he is entitled to at least 35 of the cost of application in time, labor and capital expended by him. If he builds a fence that will last 8 years and he used it only 4, he is due half of what it costs him. The same is true of a pasture or an orchard or an afforestation.

The tenant assured of payment for unused improvement added to the soil or farm, is encouraged to make them naturally prefer to remain on the farm to use them. The owner is anxious to retain the tenant instead of paying for improvement and releasing to an untried tenant. It should be apparent that there are manifest advantages in a long lease to both owner and tenant.

More Money on Balanced Farming. "Cash" crops grown in extreme amounts are really "credit" crops. The borrowing habit somehow goes with one-crop farming. Any single crop is uncertain and not the best security. A one-crop farm can not have a stable income because the markets and the seasons fluctuate. A well organized, balanced farm has a more stable income. A community of such farms has a stable business done on a cash basis. Better farming and sound business go hand in hand. Farm improvements such as liming the land, sowing pastures, etc., are worthy of credit for the amount that is required to make them. Before credit is given it should be required that at least a part of the land be invested in improvements that make the farm more productive and hence better collateral.

The above statements are supported by this survey, bearing on the tenant problem. This survey, while not exhaustive, was sufficiently comprehensive to warrant the following recommendations:

1.—That land owner and tenant provide an agreement by which the lat-

ter will remain longer on the land. At least long enough to go through one course of a good rotation of crops.

2.—That a well defined plan of soil improvement and farm management be made and followed—the plan, of course, to be flexible enough to meet any emergency.

3.—That the tenant be protected by an obligation on the part of the owner to pay for improvements made by the tenant and not used before he leaves the land.

4.—That lenders of money will encourage longer tenure on the land by making loans for improvements that form ties between the tenant and the land.

SUCCESSFUL FARMER TELLS HOW HE ROTATES CROPS AND GETS RESULTS

John Hitch of Blount County Says No Man Should Undertake To Farm Without Good System of Rotation—Live Stock Play Important Part.

John Hitch, of Blount county, is one of the most successful farmers in Tennessee. Hundreds of farmers from surrounding communities and counties visit his farm each year to study his methods of rotation and to see his splendid crops and livestock.

Last year when the East Tennessee Farmers' Convention held its annual meeting he addressed the farmers on the subject of "Livestock and Crop Rotation."

Mr. Hitch stated that he started out with a small farm, a feeling that farming wasn't a dumping ground but an industry made up of real men engaged in a great business, and an ambition to be a good farmer. His farm had a lot of gullies and most of it was very poor, he said. So he saw at once that he must do something to improve the soil and at the same time stop the washing. He said he knew that manure would build up the land so he planned a system of crops conducive to livestock farming. More land was bought, increasing the size of his farm to 180 acres which was divided into seven fields of equal size.

After trying out several different rotations for a period of ten years he finally settled on the following system: Two years clover and grass; one year corn; one year wheat and as soon as wheat is taken off, prepare ground manure, lime and sow barley; then back to clover and grass.

Mr. Hitch stated that this rotation suits him better as it gives more leisure, does not require too much plowing, leaves plenty of roots and vegetable matter to keep the land from washing and gives an opportunity for liming the soil. He said that livestock played an important part in his rotation. When he first started farming, he stated that he did not keep much livestock, but soon he bought some hill land on which cattle were kept during the summer, bringing them to the farm for the winter. He says that more feed means more cattle on his farm and that cattle makes it possible to grow more feed.

According to Mr. Hitch, no man ought to undertake to farm in Tennessee without a well balanced system of farming and by this he means the growing of several different crops in rotations for livestock production.

His advice to the Tennessee farmers is to cut the farm into fields of equal size, rotate crops, keep the kind of livestock best suited to existing conditions and keep at it. By doing this he says the farmer will make a living and his family will be contented and happy.

In reference to the East Tennessee Farmers' Convention Mr. Hitch stated that it had done more for the development of agriculture than any other organization in East Tennessee and that it had been a great help to him. He urged the farmers to attend the convention each year as well as other farmers' meetings and take home from them the many lessons and put them into practice. By doing this Mr. Hitch said that Tennessee could be made to blossom like a rose which can only be done by putting systems into farm operations.

FARM PARAGRAPHS

Forty-two counties of the ninety-five in Tennessee now have County Councils of Agriculture. A year ago only about 20 had councils. This shows that Tennessee farmers are catching the spirit of co-operation.

Many conveniences to lighten the work of rural women are being introduced in the farm homes in Tennessee. They make the home more comfortable and the family more contented.

Over three thousand farmers and breeders in the United States have agreed to breed all of their livestock to purebred sires only. This will eventually mean a higher quality average of the country's livestock.

With low-priced feed it would appear that "the sign is right" for feeding livestock this season.

The young man is fortunate who after getting all the agricultural education he can afford, buckles down to live and love the life of a farmer.

Build your soils by marketing farm products through livestock and you will place your farming operations on a more prosperous basis.

SHADOW HILL FARM

S. G. ROGERS, Owner R-4, GAINESBORO, TENN.

1921 Buff Orpington Matting List

YARD NO. 1.

In this Yard is a Cock Bird that won as Cockrell in 1919, first at Louisville, Ky., second at Nashville, Tenn., and third at Indianapolis, Ind., State Fairs. Mated to him are six Hens that won as pullets in 1919, first and second pullets and second pen pullets at Nashville, and won first and second places at Louisville and Indianapolis. Also six Pullets that are right in every particular. In buying eggs from this yard you get real quality. Eggs, \$6.00 for 15; \$11.00 for 30; \$20.00 for 60.

YARD NO. 2.

In this Yard is the best Cockerel that I raised from the prize winners in Yard No. 1. He has very even color, with the exhibition buff to the skin. Mated to him are 12 Pullets that are as good as the best, and in buying eggs from this Yard you are sure to get some show Birds for 1921. Eggs, \$4.00 for 15; \$7.00 for 30 \$12.00 for 60.

YARD NO. 3.

I have in this yard two extra good Cockerels, which match in every respect, and twenty exceptionally good Pullets. You get a real bargain in eggs from this yard at \$2.00 for 15 Book your orders early, as I am expecting a heavy demand for eggs.

TENNESSEE EVENTS

Gathered from All Corners of the State and Told in Briefest Form

Nashville.—The Tennessee Realtors' association went on record as advocating the passage of the model real estate licensing law which is to be presented to the legislature. Delegates were here from Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis. The association also indorsed the bill which provides for passing all real estate property in the state for 1921. The association opposed the bill to repeal the bond issue for a memorial building on Capitol boulevard and prepared a petition protesting against the measure, which will be presented to the general assembly.

Ripley.—W. M. Baker, a practical farmer, has just closed a contract for a lot on Ashport street and will erect a warehouse for the storing of sweet potatoes with a capacity of 20,000 bushels. There is one at Curve owned by N. J. Harward with capacity of 12,000 bushels filled with last fall's crop. Several smaller houses are over the county, but last fall it was impossible to secure enough storage room. This year the prospect acreage will be much larger and the building at Ripley by Mr. Baker will be an incentive to more farmers planting this crop.

Chattanooga.—According to a dispatch received from Washington Congressman John A. Moon, who has been seriously ill for several days, is still a very sick man, and whether he survives to serve out his term will depend upon his fortitude and wonderful constitution. His physician, Dr. William M. Spriggs, is quoted as saying that the congressman is having trouble with his heart and kidneys, but that he hopes to get him in condition to be removed to Chattanooga within a few days.

Nashville.—Quotas for the counties of Tennessee in the European relief fund collection have been announced, ranging from \$50,000 in Shelby county to \$25 in Decatur. This money is being collected this week by the organizations in the various counties designated to aid in the relief work. Every cent contributed will be sent to the starving children of Europe, as all overhead expenses of the campaign are defrayed out of a previously established fund.

Nashville.—The bishop and council of Tennessee of the Episcopal church will meet at Christ church. This is a meeting of state-wide importance and will be attended by about 20 clergymen and laymen. These sessions will be presided over by Bishop Thomas E. Gailor, assisted by the Rev. Troy Beatty, bishop coadjutor of Tennessee.

Knoxville.—Members of the Kiwanis club gave an "invisible guest" luncheon in the dining room of the Business Men's club. A simple meal was served at a charge of \$10.35 per plate; 35 cents was to cover the cost of the food and the \$10 was for the starving children of Europe. The dinner netted about \$900.

Huntingdon.—Miss Ruby Grissom, the 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Grissom, of Hollow Rock, was seriously hurt by the explosion of a dynamite cap.

Ripley.—Mrs. M. W. Lightfoot, widow of the late W. C. Lightfoot, died at her home at Lightfoot after a long illness. She was 81 years of age.

Nashville.—Over and above the \$2,700 in salary and expenses drawn from the state during the 14 months preceding January 1, Frank J. Rice, of Memphis, state revenue agent for West Tennessee, told the back tax investigating committee that he operated under a special contract with Shelby county and still another with the city of Memphis. The county pays him 25 per cent commission and the city about the same.

A HOME Newspaper

The Nashville Banner is pre-eminently a home newspaper. While it has unsurpassed facilities for giving all the news (local, state, national and foreign), yet it prides itself upon the clean, wholesome and reliable QUALITY of its news.

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